

Message Text

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TAGS: NATO, ASEC, IC

SUBJECT: ICELAND AND NATO: CONTINGENCY MEASURES

REF: USNATO 7816

1.SUMMARY:IF THE NEXT ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT INCLUDES
COMMUNISTS OF THE PEOPLES ALLIANCE PARTY (PA), ALLIES
SHOULD DRAW UPON PRECEDENT OF DEALING WITH PREVIOUS
ICELANDIC GOVERNMENTS WHICH INCLUDED PA PARTICIPATION
IN DEVISING MEASURES TO PROTECT SECURITY OF NATO

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ACTIVITIES. IF POSSIBLE, SYG LUNS SHOULD PURSUE
"A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" AS IN THE PAST. ARRANGEMENTS
SHOULD BE TAILORED CAREFULLY TO THE PRACTICAL SITUATION
THAT EMERGES. ABSOLUTE CONFIDENTIALITY WILL BE
IMPORTANT. END SUMMARY.

2. USNATO MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IF IT

BECOMES NECESSARY TO DISCUSS NATO SECURITY IN RELATION TO ICELAND.

3. THE INITIAL STEPS AND PRESS GUIDANCE WORKED OUT BY THE NATO IS SEEM SOUND. IF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE FORM OF MINISTERS BELONGING TO THE PEOPLES ALLIANCE PARTY IN GOI DOES OCCUR, THE ALLIES SHOULD

BE PREPARED TO ACT RAPIDLY AND PRUDENTLY TO PROTECT THE SECURITY OF NATO ACTIVITIES. IN THE CASE OF ICELAND THE TASK IS MADE EASIER BY ICELAND'S LIMITED PARTICIPATION IN NATO'S MILITARY AND NUCLEAR RELATED ACTIVITIES, BY EXISTING PRACTICES BY WHICH ICELAND HAS NOT FORMALLY RECEIVED ATOMAL OR COSMIC TOP SECRET DATA SINCE 1971, AND BY THE SMALL SIZE OF ICELAND'S DELEGATION AT NATO.

4. ANY FINAL MEASURES SHOULD BE TAILORED CAREFULLY TO THE PRACTICAL SITUATION THAT MIGHT EVOLVE IN ICELAND. THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO, THE DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICES, AND THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION AND THE ATTITUDE OF ICELANDIC OFFICIALS, IN REYKJAVIK AND AT NATO, MIGHT ALL BE SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN DECIDING WHAT FURTHER STEPS TO TAKE.

5. AT THIS POINT WE BELIEVE THAT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE
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WITH PEOPLES ALLIANCE PARTICIPATION IN ICELANDIC GOVERNMENTS IN 1956 AND 1971 SHOULD OFFER SUFFICIENT PRECEDENTS FOR DEALING WITH THE CURRENT CONTINGENCY. THOUGH WE WILL WANT TO BE CONSULTED ON THE MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION, WE ARE PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE SYG'S LEAD. IT IS NOT IN OUR INTERESTS TO BE -- OR TO BE SEEN AS BEING -- OUT IN FRONT ON SUCH A SENSITIVE ISSUE. WE HOPE THAT ANY ACTIONS OR DECISIONS WILL BE VIEWED -- ESPECIALLY BY THE ICELANDERS -- AS REPRESENTING THE COMMON WILL OF ALL THE OTHER ALLIES.

6. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE SYG COULD WORK OUT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY MEASURES ON THE BASIS OF A "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" WITH THE ICELANDIC PERMREP. SUCH MEASURES COULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

-- THE PRACTICE OF NOT PASSING NATO ATOMAL AND COSMIC TOP SECRET INFORMATION WOULD CONTINUE, THOUGH THE ICELANDIC PERMREP WOULD BE ABLE TO READ THE INFORMATION AT NATO IF THERE WAS A NEED.

-- THE IS WOULD NOT ROUTINELY SEND NATO SECRET MATERIAL TO THE ICELANDIC DEL; THE SYG OFFICE WOULD APPROVE THE SENDING OF NATO SECRET INFORMATION WHICH THE ICELANDERS NEEDED.

-- THE ICELANDIC DEL WOULD NOT SEND NATO SECRET INFORMATION TO REYKJAVIK.

-- ICELAND WOULD VOLUNTARILY ABSENT ITSELF FROM MEETINGS CLASSIFIED ATOMAL OR CTS. ONLY THE PERMREP OR HIS DEPUTY WOULD ATTEND MEETINGS CLASSIFIED NATO SECRET. THERE WOULD BE NO RESTRICTION ON MEETINGS OF LESSER CLASSIFICATION.

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-- THE ALLIES WOULD VOLUNTARILY EXERCISE DISCRETION IN THE INFORMATION SHARED WITH THE ICELANDERS AND WOULD TRY NOT TO DISCUSS VERY SENSITIVE MATERIAL WHEN THE ICELANDIC REPS WERE PRESENT.

-- AFTER THE NEW GOI HAS SETTLED IN, A SECURITY CHECK SHOULD BE PERFORMED IN REYKJAVIK.

CHRISTOPHER

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